

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 OMB-01 AID-20 TRSE-00 COME-00

STR-08 CIEP-02 DRC-01 NIC-01 TAR-02 ACDA-19 /199 W
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R 251840Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7094

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

COMCARIBSEAFRON

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRIDGETOWN 0749

E.O. 11652: DECONTROL FOLLOWING MAY 1975

TAGS: PFOR XL BB

SUBJ: WIAS COMMISSION TO STUDY LIMITED FEDERATION

REFS: BRIDGETOWN 682, A-129 (1972)

1. ST LUCIA PREMIER JOHN COMPTON RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THAT WEST INDIES ASSOCIATED STATES COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAS AGREED TO NAME COMMISSION TO ADVISE ON MINIMAL REQUIREMENTS FOR LIMITED FEDERATION OF ASSOCIATED STATES. SENIOR SEMINAR PARTICIPANT CHARLES NAAS, IN GATHERING INFORMATION FOR STUDY ON PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS FOR WEST INDIAN INTEGRATION, WAS TOLD OF PLANS FOR COMMISSION'S ESTABLISHMENT DURING CONVERSATIONS WITH PREMIER COMPTON AND WIAS SECRETARY AUGUSTUS COMPTON IN ST LUCIA AND CARICOM SECRETARY WILLIAM DEMAS IN GUYANA. NAAS TOLD THAT COMMISSION WILL PROBABLY BE HEADED BY UWI CHANCELLOR

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SIR HUGH WOODING, AN AVOWED FEDERATIONIST AND VETERAN LEADER

OF SEVERAL SPECIAL STUDY COMMISSIONS (ANGUILLA, TRINIDAD CONSTITUTION, ETC.). PROPOSAL FOR COMMISSION'S CREATION DESCRIBED TO NAAS AS LAST DITCH EFFORT BY ASSOCIATED STATES TO AGREE UPON LIMITED FEDERATION BEFORE OTHER STATES FOLLOW GRENADA'S LEAD AND SEEK INDEPENDENCE SEPRATELY.

2. SIGNING OF CARICOM TREATY APRIL 17 ALSO APPEARS TO HAVE GIVEN IMPETUS TO FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF FEDERATION FOR EASTERN CARIBBEAN TERRITORIES. ON APRIL 18, PREMIER COMPTON TOLD MEETING OF MINISTERS IN ST LUCIA THAT PROGRESS TOWARD INTEGRATION OVER PAST FIVE YEARS HAD GIVEN RISE TO HOPE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF WEST INDIAN NATION BEFORE END OF DECADE. IN TWO STATEMENTS SINCE CARICOM TREATY SIGNING, CARICOM SECRETARY WILLIAM DEMAS REITERATED HIS CONVICTION ABOUT NEED FOR POLITICAL INTEGRATION AMONG BOTH MDC'S AND LDC'S OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN. DEMAS EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT THIS GOAL COULD BEST BE PURSUED WITHIN BROAJER CONTEXT OF CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY THAT WOULD EXPAND TO INCLUDE NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES.

3. COMMENT: PROPOSED WIAS COMMISSION WOULD BE FIRST EFFORT TOWARD CARIBBEAN POLITICAL INTEGRATION SINCE SIGNING OF PETIT ST VINCENT AGREEMENT JUNE 11, 1971. DESPITE GRENADA'S RECENT INDEPENDENCE, THAT AGREEMENT REMAINS IN EFFECT AND WAS MOST RECENTLY TESTED DURING GRENADA CRISIS WHEN SCORES OF GRENADIANS FLED TO ST LUCIA AND ST VINCENT AND SOUGHT WORK AND RESIDENCE UNDER AGREEMENT'S FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT PROVISIONS. THOUGH IT WAS ANTICIPATED THAT AGREEMENT WOULD PRODUCE FURTHER STEPS TOWARD INTEGRATION THAT MIGHT EXTEND TO OTHER TERRITORIES, NO NEW PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN MADE AND, ACCORDING TO OFFICIALS OF THE THREE ISLAND GOVERNMENTS, NONE PRESENTLY BEING CONSIDERED. DESPITE GRENADA'S INDEPENDENCE, OFFICIALS OF ASSOCIATED STATES APPARENTLY STILL HOPE GRENADA MIGHT BECOME PARTY TO ANY AGREEMENT EMERGING FROM WIAS COMMISSION'S STUDY. ACCORDING TO WIAS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, AUGUSTUS COMPTON, GRENADA HAS NOT WITHDRAWN FROM WIAS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND OTHER BODIES, AND GOVERNMENTS OF REMAINING ASSOCIATED STATES PREPARED TO ALLOW GRENADA'S CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN WIAS CONSULTATIVE ORGANS.

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